



MINUTES
DDA BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
8:30 AM - Thursday, October 12, 2023
Ypsilanti Freighthouse Cafe - 100 Market Place

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

PATTON DOYLE (C)	P	KAYIA HINTON	P
YLONDIA PORTIS	P	ANDY FRENCH (V)	P
DIETER OTTO	P	PAUL AJLOUNY	A
MALISSA GILLETT	P	JOE RITCHIE	A
VALORY BROWN	P	NICOLE BROWN	A
BRIAN JONES-CHANCE	P	BRYAN FOLEY	P
GERRY KREINER	A		

Staff Present: DDA: Elize Jekabson, City: Katie Jones, Andrew Hellenga

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Malissa Gillett motioned to approve the agenda. Andy French supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Malissa Gillett motioned to approve the September 21st, 2023 Board Meeting minutes and Brian Jones-Chance supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES EACH) -

11 members of the public spoke.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Growing Hope Grant Application Review

Fedup Ministries joined Growing Hope by explaining their vision for the grant.

Board members engaged in a Q&A style conversation with both entities.

Ylondia Portis urged for a Community Safety Plan - DDA or City - with either a shelter or daytime/overnight plan, community benefits meetings, and a mediator.

Germaine Smith, Board Chair assured the room that what happened this summer will not happen again.

Andy French procured a non-redacted copy of the grant and had questions about how the DDA is listed as a funding partner, while it hasn't made any such commitments.

The conversation shifted to how Growing Hope can be good neighbors to the business community

Brian Jones-Change stated that this entire meeting and what some board members are asking of Growing Hope is weird.

Patton Doyle stated that retracting a letter from a state grant hurts the DDAs integrity with the funding organizations.

Malissa Gillett motioned to take no action on the letter of support to Growing Hope reaffirming our letter of support of the grant from August. Kayia Hinton supported the motion.

Ylondia Portis offered a friendly amendment requiring Growing Hope to have a community conversation with Growing hope regarding community benefits in relation to the grant and our support of the grant.

Brian Jones-Chance pointed out that we shouldn't make a friendly amendment on non-action.

Malissa Gillett motioned to remove the motion from the table, Kayia Hinton supported the motion. On a voice vote- motion passed - unanimous.

Ylondia Portis motioned to request that growing hope have a structured conversation with the community and strengthen the grant with a plan of action to work with the community

It was pointed out that the DDA cannot require Growing Hope to run a community conversation and that the grant has already been submitted so they cannot make changes.

Motion failed.

Staff pointed out that the request will be reflected in our minutes. No motion is needed if the board chooses to not take action.

No further motion was made.

7. PROPOSED BUSINESS - none.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES) - 6 members of the public spoke.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 11:34am.